

**Urban Forestry Management Plan
Urban Forestry Subcommittee Work Session
Meeting Summary**

February 22, 2010 (4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

Subcommittee Members Present:	Greg Bettis Glenna Borg, Vice Chair Richard Byers Scott Fogarty Mike Heilman, Chair Keith Warren
Council Liaison:	Councilor Craddick
NRSC Liaison:	Not present
Staff Present:	Jonathan Harker Tina Osterink (Staff Liaison) Ric Catron
Guests:	Delwayne Rassi Kate Farrington Kristin Ramstad, Oregon Dept. of Forestry

1. Introduction and Roll Call

The Urban Forestry Subcommittee (UFS) work session was called to order at 4:35 pm by Chair Heilman.

2. Chair Update

Chair Heilman informed the group that Delwayne Rassi interviewed for the vacant Urban Forestry Subcommittee position on February 11, 2010. Delwayne is a licensed arborist, which is an expertise currently missing on the UFS. The Chair will let Delwayne and the UFS know when Mayor Bemis makes his final decision to fill this position. Chair Heilman also reminded the group that the Online Urban Forestry Survey is posted. Earth Day activities are scheduled for April 24 for UFS members to participate in. Chair Heilman and Vic Chair Borg are currently signed up to staff the UFS Earth Day table.

There was discussion about tree protection and City transportation projects. Delwayne offered to investigate damage to Doug fir trees on Kane Road.

3. Oregon Department of Forestry

Kristin Ramstad, Community Assistance Forester with Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) briefed the UFS on how the ODF can help Gresham's Urban Forestry Subcommittee and its Urban Forestry Management Plan (Forestry Plan) efforts. Kristin offered several **resource guides**, including:

- Tree Protection on Construction and Development Sites (she can send more)
- A Handbook for Tree Board Members

- Oregon and Washington Community Tree Guide
- Community Tree Connections with information on grant money.

Kristin asked the group to describe where they are at in the **UFMP planning process**.

- Councilor Craddick described the Forestry Plan goal of having a comprehensive approach to tree management in Gresham.
- Chair Heilman discussed how the Forestry Plan will rely heavily on partnerships to implement the big picture tree management strategies. He concurred with Councilor Craddick's description and noted that the current tree management approach is fragmented.
- Keith Warren is excited to build a UFMP Program, especially since the Gresham/Boring area has an important nursery presence on the international level yet the City's street tree often do not meet the expectations of international visitors.
- Scott Fogarty mentioned that Friends of Trees is currently trying to move outside of the Portland area and hopes to replicate its organization's success here in Gresham.

Kristin referred to the handout she passed out identifying how ODF could play a role in Gresham's UFMP and then asked if there were **specific questions the UFS had regarding the UFMP?**

Chair Heilman asked how do you link the pieces (i.e. Nursery Industry, partnerships)? He also asked if she feels the City is on the right track? Kristin advises looking at how Lake Oswego, Tualatin and Wilsonville have created an alignment with the development community to get their buy in. Corvallis and Pacific Power is an example where a lack of community engagement early on resulted in a dispute (i.e. street tree inventory and arboretum fines)

Canopy Target Goals

Kristin recommended creating a system of evaluation to evaluate the number of trees planted citywide. Key questions to ask include:

- How easy is it for a Developer to comply with code?
- How efficient is the code regarding building?

She recommended streamlining the removal and replanting permit process.

Canopy targets are community specific and depend on the context of the development and business community. Scott Fogarty asked her to elaborate on the components of canopy benchmarks asked her to elaborate on the components of canopy benchmarks and she responded with the following:

- Regulatory compliance;
- Ask, what can you evaluate five years out?;
- Ask, how can you measure/evaluate? Such as staff; tracking number of times there was a tradeoff with setbacks and developers to keep a tree; do the areas of the city with "door hangers" have nice trees; monitor # coupons in these area; track survival rates.

Chair Heilman asked if the state has an **inventory protocol** for cities to follow?

Since one of Gresham's tree issues includes a Lack of Shared Community Vision for Trees, Kristin recommends first to **build focus** with the inventory groups and advises the UFS to play the facilitator role with such groups as:

- High school students
- Mt Hood Community College students and Forestry Dept
- Neighborhood Associations

She also suggests identifying where the vision is not shared and to organize a community tree care training in conjunction with Friends of Trees.

Training in iTree software (iTree Streets – Free software) is one option and advises Gresham to consider the available assessment vs. inventory options. Assessment includes ground level data that gives a one time snapshot with a low Level of Service and iTree inventory is a monitoring tool that can be updated with changes. Either way, there is a Hazard Tree liability associated with both. Kristin advises contacting Joe Porascky at PSU for canopy analysis consultation.

The discussion concluded with questions about grant funding. Small Projects that qualify for ODF assistance when available, includes less than \$2,000 with a minimal match. There is no "implementation grant money" available.

4. Review Outreach Events

Tree Forum

- Nurseries to invite: JFS, Al's, Deep Creek, Drake's 7 Dees
- Most of the UFS is planning on attending
- Greg can help with the Significant Tree Hunt
- Scott and Friends of Trees may have a power point on the value of trees
- Keith can help with the Gradin Arboretum activity

Tina will send a list of Tree Forum roles and responsibilities for UFS members.

5. Nadaka Vegetation Management Plan

Ric Catron, Gresham's Parks Planner, reviewed the proposed management goals with the UFS and asked for their input. The group discussed the need for a Succession Plan to address the laminated root rot problem with the Doug fir trees on site. UFS members advise communicating with signs why staff decided to close the informal trails.

Ric also discussed how laminated root rot spores stay in the ground for 30 to 50 years. A State Forestry Pathologist will conduct an analysis for no charge with a report completed in mid-April. The vegetation management plan for Nadaka should be completed at the end of April 2010. Chair Heilman recommended exploring harvesting commercial size trees for money if they need to be removed.

6. Next Steps

Tree Forum is March 13 at 9:00 a.m.

Next meeting is March 15, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.